

MEMO

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Ted Harris, Associate Regional Planner, 213-236-1916, harrist@scag.ca.gov

DATE: March 3, 2005

SUBJECT: Preliminary Schedule for the 2007 RTP and PEIR

Summary:

The Regional Council adopted the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) on April 1, 2004. Transportation Conformity on the 2004 RTP was approved by the federal agencies on June 7, 2004 for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), the Imperial County and Coachella Valley portions of Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), and the San Bernardino portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). Conformity for the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin and the South Desert Modified 1-Hour Ozone Area was approved on June 16, 2004. Both federal (Title 23, CFR Sec.450.322) and state (Government Code 65080(c)) law requires that the RTP be updated at least once every three years in federally designated non-attainment and maintenance areas for air quality such as our region. Accordingly, the current RTP must be updated and adopted by the Regional Council by no later than April of 2007.

BACKGROUND:

On February 3, 2005, the Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) directed staff to move forward with the RTP triennial update process. Staff informed the TCC that uncertainties associated with fiscal issues may warrant an early amendment or update of the RTP. The TCC directed staff to continue assessing and monitoring potential need for an amendment or an update and report back in March.

Uncertainties associated with the fiscal issues raised by staff that may warrant early amendment or update of the RTP have not changed. Most of these issues are going to take about a year to fully play out. Deciding whether or not to entertain an amendment or an update at that point would be too late. Therefore, in order for us to position ourselves to accommodate an amendment or an early update, we need to gear up now with the update process assuming we will need to meet an early update schedule. In the event that early update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, we would be in an enviable position of being able to spend more time in further refining the plan for adoption through the regular update schedule. The attached timeline for the proposed RTP update has been prepared based on this premise. The key milestones of the proposed schedule are:

- Complete updating goals, objectives, planing and technical assumptions, baseyear evaluation etc. by May 2005
- Complete development of No-project or Baseline growth by Aug 2005
- Establish Baseline performance conditions, needs assessment and baseline revenue forecast by Nov. 2005

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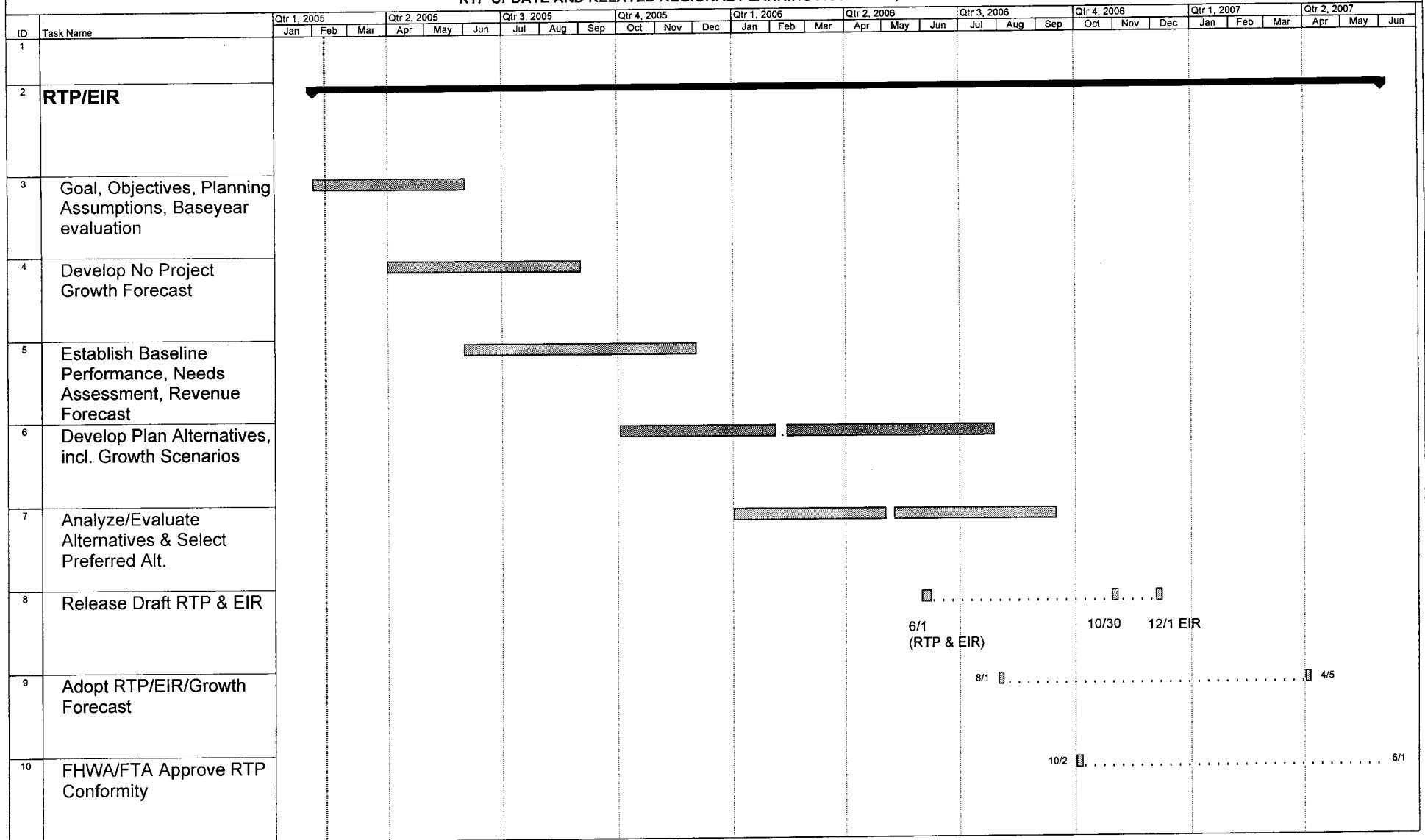
- Establish Baseline performance conditions, needs assessment and baseline revenue forecast by Nov. 2005
- Develop alternative scenarios, including growth scenarios by Jan 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, continue the alternatives process through July 2005.
- Analyze/evaluate the alternatives by April 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, continue the alternatives evaluation process through Sept. 2005
- Release the Draft RTP/EIR in June 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, release the draft in Oct. 2006.
- Adopt RTP/EIR/Growth Forecast in Aug 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, adopt in April 2007.

Staff's recommendation to the Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) is to move forward with the proposed RTP/EIR update schedule accommodating a potential interim plan amendment or an update. Staff will keep EEC informed of any issues that might impact the current RTP schedule.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact. The budget for this work is already included in the current Overall Work Program (OWP).

**DRAFT SCHEDULE
RTP UPDATE AND RELATED REGIONAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES, 2005-2007**



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